GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2583
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016
Mining Leases
Singh Shri Bhola

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any scheme for scientific and environment friendly mining in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision on fixing minimum 50 hectares for granting a mining lease; and

(d) the action taken against the illegal mines during last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) to (b): Government has framed Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 (MCDR, 1988) under Section 18 of MMDR Act' 1957 for mining in Scientific and Systematic manner in the interest of Conservation and Development of mineral deposits and protection of environment. The MCDR, 1988 is applicable in respect of all major minerals except atomic mineral, coal, petroleum and natural gases. During the inspection of the mines carried out by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), compliance of various rules from 31 to 41 of MCDR, 1988 for Protection of Environment, Removal of Topsoil, Storage of Overburden, Reclamation and Rehabilitation, Precaution against ground vibration, Control of surface subsidence, Precaution against air pollution, Discharge of toxic liquid, Precaution against noise, permissible limits and standards, restoration of flora, etc. are checked. If any lessee is found to violate such provisions, action as deemed fit is initiated for compliance of the same.

Relevant proposals such as utilisation of top soil, reclamation & rehabilitation, afforestation, stabilization of waste dumps, treatment and disposal of mining water, protective measures for ground vibrations caused by blasting/air pollution/water pollution are incorporated in the Mining plan/Scheme of Mining approved by IBM under the chapter Environmental Management Plan (EMP). Under Progressive Mine Closure Plan/Final Mine Closure Plan proposals for reclamation & rehabilitation of mined out area, water quality management, air quality management, top soil management, tailing dump management are being incorporated.

(c): The Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules 2016 notified on 04/03/2016 stipulates under Rule 12(5) state that the minimum area for grant of mining lease shall be not less than five hectares.

(d): Section 23C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957, empowers the State Governments to frame rules to prevent illegal mining and the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make such rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith in the state.

Based on the quarterly returns on illegal mining submitted by various State Governments to IBM, the total cases of illegal mining in the country reported from year 2012-13 to 2015-16 (Quarter ending September, 2015), including the fine realized by State Governments are provided below:

Illegal mining cases Action taken from 2012-13 to 2015-16 (Up to Quarter ending Sept − 2015)

2012-
13

2013 −14

2014 − 15
2015 − 16
(Quarter ending Sept. − 2015) FIR Lodged (Nos.) Court Cases
Filed
(Nos.) Vehicle
Seized
(Nos.) Fine realized by
State Govts.
(Rs. Lakh)
Grand Total
98597

88689
97149
48467
14458
43091
181174
117081.683